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CONTACT: Megan Bush, (202) 225-3201

### **Rep. Gary Miller Discusses the Importance of Goods Movement in Southern California at First Freight Panel Hearing**

Washington, D.C. – Today, the special panel on 21st Century Freight Transportation on which Congressman Gary Miller (CA-31) serves conducted its first hearing on the importance of freight transportation to our economy.

Congressman Miller issued the following statement after the hearing:

“I thank Chairman Duncan for convening today’s hearing and the witnesses for providing their insight and concerns regarding the state of our nation’s freight network. To support our fledgling economic recovery and future growth and prosperity, it is vital that we have an efficient and safe goods movement system.

The Federal Highway Administration estimates that in the next thirty years, freight movement will increase by sixty percent. While this is positive news, this increase will put a significant amount of stress on our nation’s ports, highways, and railways. In order to sustain and support growth in our regional and national economies, our freight network infrastructure must be able to support this increased demand.

This is especially true in our region which, according to the Southern California Association of Governments, will see a tripling of freight moving through the region within three decades. The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, Ontario Airport, and our extensive rail network are essential to the movement of goods from cargo containers to store shelves across the country. Since the Inland Empire bears a disproportionate share of stress on our highways and railways, we need to ensure that the country recognizes how vitally important our region is to the national supply chain and plan our infrastructure needs accordingly.

I look forward to continuing to work with the panel to formulate effective solutions that will address the challenges facing freight transportation and goods movement and support economic growth.”

Witnesses at this morning’s hearing included:

- Mr. Fred Smith, Chairman, President, and CEO of FedEx Corporation
- Mr. Charles W. Moorman, Chairman, President, and CEO of Norfolk Southern Corporation
- Mr. James Newsome, President and CEO, of the South Carolina Ports Authority

- Mr. Derek Leathers, President of Werner Enterprises
- Mr. Edward Wytkind, President of the Transportation Trades Department of the AFL-CIO

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